materials and skills. In its activities, KVIC adopt simple production techniques which can be easily acquired and adopted by rural people. KVI activities require low per capita investment and short gestation period. By providing employment either full time or part time to rural people, these activities help arrest migration of rural people to the cities. In order to increase the per capita productivity and also earnings, the KVIC has introduced improved tools, techniques •and machinery. KVIC also arranges marketing of KVI products produced by the rural artisans through recognised sales outlet. The KVIC also arranges various training programmes for the institutions, co-operatives and individuals engaged in the production of KVI goods.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) KVIC has started financing the individual entrepreneurs only from 1996 onwards. So far, the Commission has not received any complaints about the errant and corrupt entrepreneurs. In so far as financial indiscipline of benami concerns is concerned action is initiated by the Commission for recovery of funds as an arrear of land revenue under Section 19(B) of the KVIC Act.

(c) For the present, KVIC sanctions loans for the promotion of khadi and village industries specified in the schedule to the Act. Earlier KVIC was sanctioning loan on the basis of its pattern of financial assistance, However, based on the recommendation of High Power Committee, as a matter of policy, the pattern approach has been changed in favour of project approach. The loans are now being generally sanctioned on the basis of technical and financial viability of projects submitted by the implementing agencies. KVIC has also taken a decision to assist individual artisans.

Waiving off of Loans Taken by Tribals Under the ITDP

2384. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the tribals who have taken loan from the public sector banks in the Integrated Tribals Areas Development Projects (ITDP) in Orissa;

(b) whether Government propose to waive the loan of tribals in those ITDP areas in Orissa in view of the severe drought situation prevailing in Orissa;

(c) if so, the guidelines issued to the public sector banks in that regard; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) According to the Government of Orissa, the tribals who have taken loan from public sector banks in ITDA area are identified.

(b) to (d) The State Government has informed that the decision in this regard is to be taken.

Success of the New Growth Centre Scheme

2385. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Growth Centre Scheme has been successful;

(b) if so, the concrete results thereof;

(c) in what manner this scheme compares with the results of the Old Growth Centres Scheme; and

(d) whether more steps will be taken to promote industrialisation in backward areas,

THE & MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The new Growth Centre Scheme was introduced in June, l988 and 71 Growth Centres have been announced for implementation during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Of these, 50 Growth Centres have already been approved and many of these are already at an advanced stage of

implementation. Having regard to the pace of growth, full Central assistance has been released in respect of nine Growth Centres. In 12 Grwoth Centres plots have been developed and allotment of plots have commenced. The other Growth Centres are at various stages of implementation. So far a total of Rs. 202.29 crores has been released to various State Governments under this Scheme.

(c) The old Growth Centre Scheme was introduced in 1983 and ceased to exist in 1988 when it was replaced by the new Growth Centre Scheme. 30 Growth Centres were selected under this Scheme in the "No-Industry Districts" for assistance. These Growth Centres were to be developed at a cost of Rs. 6 crores each out of which the share of the Central Government was limited to one-third of the total project cost. Infrastructure facilities provided under this Scheme included power, sub-stations, approach roads, water works, effluent discharge systems etc. Nine Growth Centres were completely assisted under this Scheme and some others partly. The Central Government released a total amount of Rs. 35.60 crores under this Scheme.

The new Growth Centre Scheme is more comprehensive; the Growth Centres proposed to be set up under the new Grwoth Centre Scheme are larger and to be set up at a total cost of about Rs. 23 to 30 crores.

(d) The main responsibility for industrial development rests with the state Governments. The Central Government supports and supplements their efforts. The Central Government is presently implementing two centrally sponsored schemes, that is the Growth Centre Scheme and the Transport Subsidy Scheme for accelerated development of backward areas. Besides, the Central Government is also implementing the Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme which is aimed primarily at development of small scale industries in rural and backward areas. The State Governments operate various Schemes which provide fiscal incentives and also provide subsidy in order to attract industries in backward areas.

गुजरात से खनिजों का निर्यात बढ़ाने हेतु कदम

2386. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या वाणिज्य और खान मंत्रालयों ने गुजरात में उपलब्ध विभिन्न खनिजों के निर्यात हेतु संयुक्त रूप से एक समयबद्ध कार्यक्रम तैयार करने पर विचार किया है;

(ख) क्या खान मंत्रालय और खनिज तथा धातु व्यापार निगम गुजरात के कच्छ, पंचमहल, बनास कांठा, मेहसाना और जूनागढ़ जिलों में पाये जाने वाले खनिजों और अयस्कों की मांग विदेशों में बढ़ावा देने हेतु पर्याप्त रुचि नहीं ले रहे हैं;

(ग) क्या उनका मंत्रालय और खान मंत्रालय गुजरात सरकार द्वारा बार-बार मांग किये जाने के बावजूद ऐसे निर्यातों हेतु पर्याप्त स्रोत जुटाने के लिए सहायता देने में अपनी असमर्थता व्यक्त कर रहे हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और इसके परिणामस्वरूप सरकार को वार्षिक रूप से कितने राजस्व की हानि हो रही है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बोल्ला बुल्ली रमैया): (क) से (घ) जी, नहीं। गुजरात के कच्छ, पंचमहल, बनास कांठा, मेहसाना और जूनागढ़ जिलों में खनिजों का निर्यात, घरेलू उद्योग द्वारा उपयोग के लिए सुरक्षित 54% से अधिक एलुमिनियम तत्व वाले बॉक्साइट को छोड़कर, मुक्त रूप से किया जा सकता है। एम० एम० टी० सी० अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में इन खनिजों के लिए निर्यात बाजारों का पता लगाने के भरसक प्रयास कर रहा है।

Quota For Blind Women in Parliament and Assemblies

2387. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the blind women have sought Quota in Parliament and Assemblies

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the action taken thereon?